

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB172

(Question Serial No. 0683)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses will be provided for persons in custody. What are the specific measures? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

In 2021-22, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will continue to collaborate with various training bodies (such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and the Vocational Training Council) to provide more than 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses with over 1 400 training places for lawfully residing adult PICs, who are due for discharge within 24 months and eligible for employment, to enrol on a voluntary basis and obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in future with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release. These courses cover a wide range of industries, such as construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. In recent years, CSD has proactively introduced new courses on innovative skills and technologies, including 3D Designing and Printing Skills, Virtual Reality Logistics Management, Virtual Reality Welding, as well as Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management. This year, a course on Virtual Reality Interior Design will also be introduced.

For young PICs under the age of 21, CSD provides them with mandatory half-day education and half-day vocational training. In 2021-22, CSD will provide young PICs with about 20 vocational training courses covering the construction, business and service industries. New course elements such as computer animation design and 3D designing and printing will be included. CSD will also arrange for the trainees to sit for the examinations held by the accreditation bodies, such as the certification examinations of the City and Guilds and the intermediate trade tests of CIC, and take certificate courses offered by various training bodies.

In 2021-22, CSD's estimated expenditure on vocational training for PICs is about \$30.29 million, including the expenses for 22 staff on establishment and the provision of vocational training courses. Furthermore, CSD will continue to work with various training bodies and keep abreast of the market changes and the employment situation of discharged persons through the employment follow-up service provided by these training bodies, thereby further improving its vocational training programmes provided to PICs.

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